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BIG WALNUT LOCAL SCHOOLS

The Eagle Examiner

 **APRIL 2021** *Our mission is to inspire and guide each student to his or her maximum potential.* 

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT ANGIE HAMBERG



Spring weather is finally here! After a challenging winter, we are all ready to get outside and enjoy the nice weather. I hope you have been able to catch a few rays of sunshine with your family.

As we wrap up the last quarter of the school year, we remain grateful for being able to stay in-person this entire year. However, due to both the pandemic and the current job market, we are continuing to face staffing challenges. One position that has become critical over the last month is bus drivers. We have reached a point where we will have to redistribute students and combine routes to be able to transport everyone. Additionally, we may need to run “double routes” in town, picking up one group of students and dropping them off before going back to pick up a second group of students (who would be dropped off at school a bit late). Obviously, neither of these situations is ideal.

If you are at all interested in helping out as a substitute bus driver, please see the posting on our website (job ID 10580) under “Employment Opportunities” (under the District tab). We anticipate that this shortage will go into the new school year, so our need will exceed just finishing this school year. As I have shared previously, like most districts in Central Ohio, we continue to struggle with substitutes in all areas. If you are interested in becoming a substitute teacher, food service worker, educational assistant, or custodian, you can also find information on that same web page.

Finally, I have noticed a lot of angst and frustration in general lately. We are living through extremely challenging times. In addition to the pandemic, our country is very polarized on a variety of topics. We are facing new challenges on how or when to address these controversial issues with our students. Our teachers are in difficult positions when teaching controversial material as parents and community members have very different opinions on what should be taught and from what perspective. As administrators, we continue to emphasize with our staff that our job is to teach students how to find information on a topic, how to gauge bias, and how to make decisions on their own. We know we are not perfect in this area, and we will be focused on developing a plan to provide our staff members with additional training and tools.

One of our administrative team norms is to presume positive intentions. I find it more and more difficult these days, but I find when I take a step back and try to look at the situation from the opposite perspective, I am better able to presume positive intentions. We live in an amazing community and have awesome kids in Big Walnut. If we can work together to understand each other and model this for our children, we will continue to make Big Walnut a great place to live and raise families.



KIDS INSPIRING KINDNESS

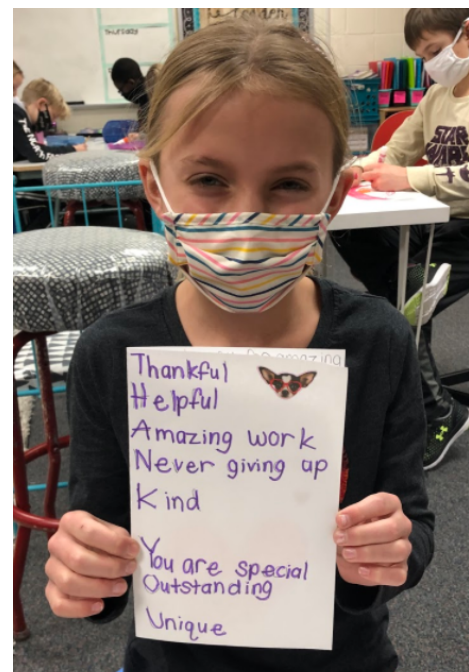
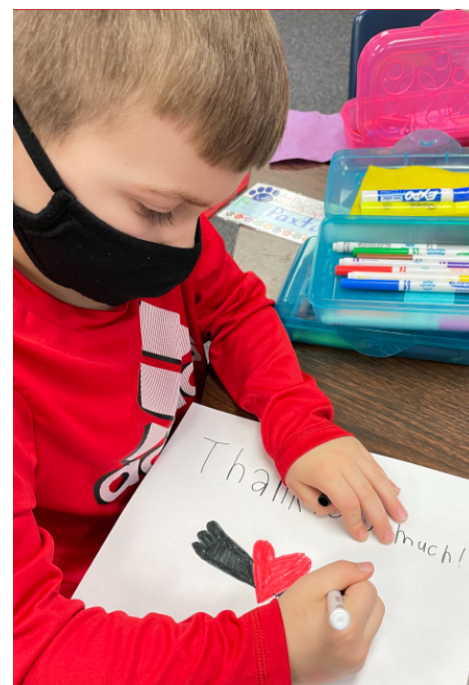
Big Walnut Elementary's (BWE) Kids Inspiring Kindness campaign kicks off each year with a t-shirt design contest. Students submit their designs, and all BWE classes vote on a winner. The winner's design is printed on t-shirts and sold to the community.

The money raised goes into the building's PTO account; however, classrooms decide on projects and complete an application process. Our *Kids Inspiring Kindness* board members (school principal, two teachers and two parents) approve proposals, so the kindness journey can begin.

All projects are documented with photos as an accountability piece, but also as a way to treasure such a meaningful memory our students will never forget. A few of our past projects include:

- VLP students made blankets to donate to children in the foster care system.
- 4th grade students created cookie-decorating kits to add holiday cheer in the Bountiful Backpacks.
- Kindergarten students created cards to decorate the Turning Point Shelter with kindness.
- The most recent project included the entire school working together to create sensory boxes for the patients at the Heinzerling House.

To learn more about our projects, check out our website at tinyurl.com/BWEkindness2021

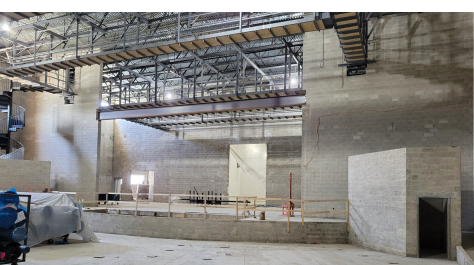


CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Check out the progress on the new Big Walnut High School



Front entrance



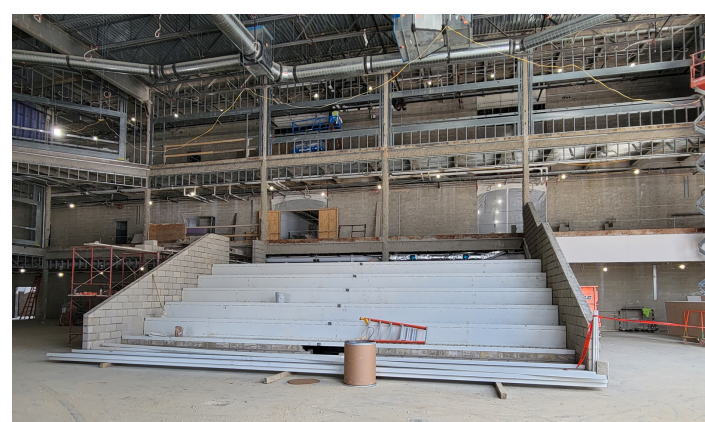
Performing arts stage



Classroom wings



Front entry from student dining area



Learning staircase in the Academic Commons

March's STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Due to COVID-19, pictures were taken with immediate family members only and not with Board members



Addison Hamm from General Rosecrans Elementary



Molly Ralston from Big Walnut Middle School



PURPLE UP CAMPAIGN HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL IN SUPPORTING MILITARY FAMILIES

Thank you to our students, staff, and community members for purchasing Purple Up shirts in support of our military-connected families. Additionally, with the generous support of our sponsors (listed below) we raised around \$3,000. We are hoping to provide scholarships as a result. We'd like to thank and recognize our sponsors for their support.

Thank you to our sponsors:



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INCOME TAX CONTINUES TO PLAY KEY ROLE IN DISTRICT REVENUES



Treasurer Jeremy Buskirk

Over the last couple of years, I have shared information about our District's different funding sources. One important local revenue source that I get many questions about this time of year is our school district income tax, which accounted for 18.9% of our general operating revenue last school year. Our school district has a traditional income tax that takes into account more than just "earned" income. While the income tax collections do get distributed to Big Walnut, it may not be common knowledge (especially for

newer community members) that these funds are all collected by the Ohio Department of Taxation through employer withholding, individual quarterly estimated payments, and annual returns. These payments are then distributed to us in January, April, July, and October every year for amounts collected during the prior quarter.

While this has become an important part of our District finances, it is not a common source of revenue in all Central Ohio districts. As an example, only five schools in Delaware and Franklin counties (Big Walnut, Buckeye Valley, Bexley, Canal Winchester, and Reynoldsburg) have an income tax. All districts need local support, however, and what you will likely see for school districts in our area is that there is a higher reliance on property taxes for general operations, which equates to higher property tax bills. The decision of what type of levy to use is rooted in the history of each community and a result of hard work over the years to listen to community members' thoughts on what financing structure made the most sense to provide for the educational needs of students.

As we all are working to finish up our tax filings in April, even though tax deadlines have again been extended, we want to continue to thank you for the support you provide to help us meet the many needs of our students.

School District Rate Comparison



Sources: Delaware County Auditor, Franklin County Auditor, Ohio Department of Taxation

Looking at our property tax and income tax equivalent, our millage rate continues to provide a high-quality education at a good value for our tax payers.

KICKING-OFF SPRING AT YOUR COMMUNITY LIBRARY



Spring is finally here. The longer days and beautiful weather implore us to leave our comfy couches where we hunkered down throughout the winter and head outside to tackle the never-ending outdoor chores. The Community Library in Sunbury is here to help as you begin those spring projects. We have several online resources available at <http://databases.yourcl.org> to help you along the way.

For all those outdoor home maintenance chores, the **Home Improvement Reference**

Center is a useful resource. Through a collection of comprehensive full-text sources, this database provides you with detailed how-to information covering a variety of home improvement and repair projects. It also includes information on landscaping.

As you pull your lawn equipment from the garage, it's best to make sure they're tuned up for the tasks ahead. The **Small Engine Repair** database is a great resource to help ensure everything is in working order. This database provides detailed, yet user-friendly, maintenance and repair guides for all manner of small engines. The content is organized in an easy-to-use manner so that you can quickly find the information you need. If you decide it's time to replace an old lawn tractor or leaf blower, check out **Consumer Reports Online**, where you can find over 9,000 reviews of

products and services, including lawn equipment.

If you need assistance in accessing our online resources or finding more in-depth information, we would love to help! Contact the library at 740-965-3901 or ask@yourcl.org, and we will connect you with books on any topic that will help you this season, including but not limited to home maintenance, landscaping, small engine repair, gardening, and small-scale farming.

We hope these resources will be of some use as you get working this spring. You will need a library account to access our online resources. If you do not have one, visit <http://register.yourcl.org>.



Community Library
Serving the Big Walnut Area

This space was paid for by the Community Library.

Thanks to the combined generosity of businesses, family, and friends, Big Walnut graduates have received over \$1.8 million in scholarships since 1994.



In 2020, the Big Walnut Education Foundation awarded \$92,500 to 73 BWHS graduates.

Donations of any value make a difference. You can join a giving society like these donors:

Soaring Eagle Society:
\$20,000 and above

Fraternal Order of Eagles
Jeff Dingus Memorial
Mitchell Young Memorial
Multi Plastics Endowment
Peyton Family Memorial
Shidecker Memorial

1816 Society:
\$5,000 to \$19,999

Big Walnut Area Realtor's Association
Brandi Griffin Memorial
Davis Family
Dr. Dean Backiewicz
Forman Realtors
Jim Burkhart Memorial
John Scanlan Memorial
VFW

Superintendent's Circle:
\$1,000 to \$4,999

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Deck Masters
Eugena L. Hoke Memorial
Hettterscheidt Family
Immediate Health Assoc., Sunbury
Judy Denton
Mazzi Family
Tanger Outlets
Wagner Family

Scholarships are available for Big Walnut seniors and graduates for 4-year and 2-year degrees in addition to trade programs. Applications are due April 7th, 2021. See bigwalnuteducationfoundation.org to learn more.



**Big Walnut
Education
Foundation**

Volunteer Board Members

Dave Brehm, Diana Butts, Warren Cox,
Nicci Scanlan Hess, Bob Hettterscheidt,
Linda Rano Jonard, Mark Predieri,
Jerry Rensi, and Kelly Forman Roberto

The Big Walnut Education Foundation appreciates and values all donors who have contributed at any level. Please contact us in the event of an error or omission.

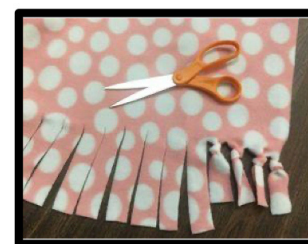
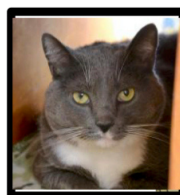
Big Walnut Kids, I challenge you to support our community with your next birthday party! You can support local children, animals and families in need using your birthday party to collect donations instead of traditional presents. Through my Girl Scout Silver Award, I have partnered with the following local nonprofits to feature birthdays with a very special purpose!

Sincerely, Anna

Go to any of these websites and pull up the Birthday Page for ideas, invitations and more or just look for needed donations!

MVOB:

MyVeryOwnBlanket.org
Go to 'Get Involved / Blanket Birthday Party' to help children in foster care.



BWFWS:

BigWalnutFriendsWhoShare.org
Go to 'What We Need' to help local families.

HSDC: Humane Society
Delaware County
hsdcoho.org. Go to 'Programs / Birthday Club' to help animals in need.



This is a paid advertising space.

Celebration of Learning



As part of Prairie Run Elementary's first Celebration of Learning week, students wore their favorite "thinking caps." They'll end the week with a dance party to celebrate all the learning, hard work, and growth they've experienced this year.

MORE CAREER CONNECTIONS EXPERIENCES AT SOUDERS

Hysten Souders Elementary conducted their second Career Connections last month. All sessions were held virtually, so students were able to get a sneak peak into all of the presenters' work places. Students could choose between four options:

- Chanie Scott from Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Central Ohio discussed the importance of mentorship.
- John Burdett and Roman Woods from Discover Financial played a fun "Would You Rather?" game to showcase how everyday decisions impact one's current and future financial state.
- Samantha Thompson from Chemical Abstracts discussed project management and the importance of planning, teamwork, and how to become a leader.
- Jenna Bourne, a brand specialist at Ben Mitchell, took students on a live virtual tour at Ye Olde Mill where Velvet ice cream is made. She explained the process of how ice cream is made and the different careers involved with the ice cream industry.



WELCOME TO STARBOOKS AT GRE

General Rosecrans Elementary (GRE) students and staff are so excited to have more access to the school library this year. With the opening of Prairie Run Elementary, and the additional classroom space provided by the redistricting, the library can be returned to its intended purpose. To create excitement and ownership over this space, Principal Kate Thoma branded the library as Starbooks. All 4th grade students were given the opportunity to "work" at Starbooks by completing a job application, receiving training, and completing their work schedules. Here is one of our 4th grader Josey Durst's point of view on Starbooks:

How did you get the opportunity to work in Starbooks?

I applied for the job on an application. It asked me to put the author's names in order, numbers in order, and whether books were fiction or nonfiction. Being a librarian, you have to be able to find where a book goes, so you have to be able to categorize them in the right way.

What are some of your responsibilities at Starbooks?

Keep the library clean and picked up and make sure all the books are in the right place. We try to do our best to put the books away for other kids to enjoy them.

What do you like about working at Starbooks?

I like having a peaceful, relaxing time. Being able to know that putting away the books helps other kids see the books and know what books we have makes me feel good. Since I love organizing books, I really like it.

What is difficult about working at Starbooks?

I think the difficult thing is when you are subbing for other students and they don't come and don't get someone to work their time. Also, nonfiction is a little hard to put away because there are a lot more nonfiction books.

How is this helping you prepare for life?

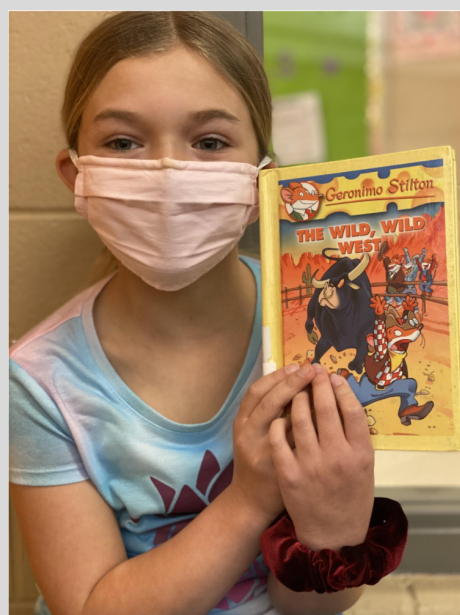
It is preparing me for life by practicing being able to be good at a job, filling out an application for a job, and giving me the opportunity to learn before I get to do a job in real life.

How does this impact the school at GRE?

The teachers already have a lot of things to do, so for the kids to help do this job, it helps the teachers and the students. It also helps students by letting them see what all books we have that they can read and learn about things. I think the library is a great way to help GRE.

What is your favorite part of working at Starbooks?

At the end of the day knowing that the library is clean and all the books are available to students makes me feel good. It's really nice for everyone to be able to enjoy all the books this year.



Josey during her shift at Starbooks



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What is Webster Technique?

The Webster technique is a specific chiropractic sacral analysis and diversified adjustment that reduces interference to the nervous system and balances pelvic muscles and ligaments. Many women benefit from reduced back, rib and pubic bone pain during pregnancy when under regular chiropractic care. Gentle chiropractic adjustments during pregnancy are not only safe, but highly recommended for optimal alignment and balance.

Please contact us Monday through Saturday to set up an appointment at our Sunbury or Johnstown location and learn how chiropractic care can help you!

123 State Route 3	Sunbury, OH 43074	740-965-4301	www.sunburychiropractic.com
620 W. Coshocton St.	Johnstown, OH 43031	740-967-BACK	www.johnstownchiropractic.com

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EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

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Mobile Apps: FEMA, American Red

Cross, the Weather Channel, and many local news outlets offer apps or text alerts.

DelcoAlerts: Sign up to receive critical information quickly in a variety of situations, such as severe weather, unexpected road closures, missing persons, and evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods.

Wireless Emergency Alerts: Emergency messages sent by government authorities.

Emergency Alert System: An alert sent to TV and radio stations, often used for severe weather alerts.

Outdoor Warning Sirens: Located throughout the county. Used for tornado warnings, sirens are designed to be heard outdoors.

To learn more or opt in to DelcoAlerts, go to **delcoema.org** or call 740-833-2180.



FARMERS MARKET VOUCHERS

AM I ELIGIBLE?

To qualify, you must be a Delaware County resident, age 55 or older, and within 200% poverty level.

Participants receive \$60 worth of vouchers to use on fresh produce, herbs, honey, and produce-bearing plants from participating markets and vendors.

DISTRIBUTION DAYS

Drive-thru pick-up at SourcePoint, 800 Cheshire Road, Delaware on Friday, May 21, 2–6 p.m. and Saturday, May 22, 9 a.m.–noon.

Save time and download an application today at **MySourcePoint.org/farmers**.

For more details, call 740-936-7117.

Get Help. Get Answers. Get Connected.

Statistics show that one in four Americans has a mental health condition. Even more startling, 70% do not seek treatment.

Mental health screenings are a quick way to determine if you or someone you care about may need to reach out to a doctor or mental health professional for an evaluation. They are educational, not diagnostic. Go to **screening.mentalhealthscreening.org**.

Local resources can help:

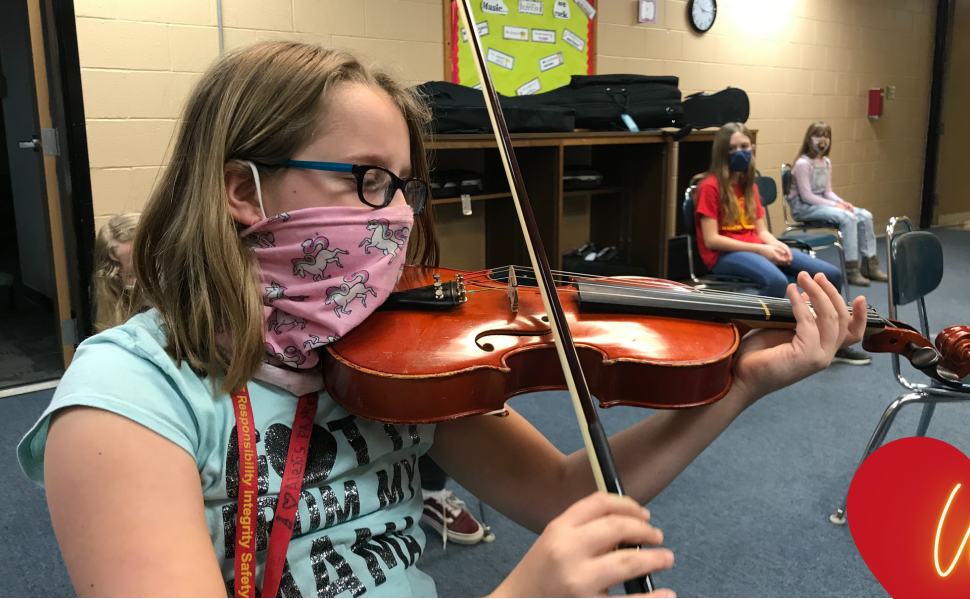


Call 211 or 800-684-2324,
or text helpline to 898211.



**Delaware-Morrow Mental Health
& Recovery Services Board**
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dmmhsb.org.



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